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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195642 TOSEC 200109

43
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195642 TOSEC 200109

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BEIRUT DTD 06 AUG 1976
QTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6823

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE
SUBJECT: VISIT TO MARONITE SECTOR

1. SHEIKH NAGIB DAHDAH, SECRETARY GENERAL, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TELEPHONED EMBASSY MORNING OF AUG. 6 AND ASKED CHARGE WHEN HE WOULD BE ABLE TO CALL ON LEBANESE OFFICIALS IN EAST BEIRUT. SECGEN SAID HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO MEET WWTH ME, AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTER, PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC AND OTHER LEBANESE OFFICIALS ON OTHER SIDE HAD MANY THINGS THEY WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH US. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE MOST ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH EMBASSY AND WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO HAVE DIRECT CONTACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. I EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE MOST INTERESTED IN CONSULTING WITH THEM, THAT AMBASSADOR SEELYE HAD HOPED THAT CONDITIONS WOULD ALLOW HIM TO TRAVEL TO EAST BEIRUT, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE. I POINTED OUT

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THAT, FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION OF AMBASSADOR MELOY, WE WERE UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO NOT TAKE CHANCES IN CROSSING THE GREEN LINE. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE WERE HOPEFUL CONDITIONS WOULD IMPROVE AND THAT IT WWOLD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE SUCH A VISIT IN NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE.

3. SECGEN SUGGESTED THAT I OR MEMBER OF MY STAFF SHOULD MOVE TO AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AT YARZE AND THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TRAVEL SECURELY THROUGHOUT THAT AREA OF LEBANON. I ASKED THE SECGEN THAT, IF CONDITIONS WOULD NOT PERMIT ME TO TRAVEL SECURELY TO EAST BEIRUT, DID HE FEEL THAT ANOTHER OFFICER WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT SUCH CONTACTS FOR ME. HE RESPONDED THAT HE HOPED VERY MUCH THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO COME, BUT IF THIS WERE NOT POSSIBLE, WE COULD BE ASSURED THAT ANY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED AT ALL LEVELS.

4. I TOLD SECGEN WE WOULD BE LOOKING AT THESE OPTIONS WITHIN THE COMING DAYS AND THAT HE COULD BE ASSURED THAT WE WERE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THEM. HUNT UNQTE HABIB

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